FLOODPLAIN MAP REQUIREMENTS FOR CBDG-DR PROJECTS

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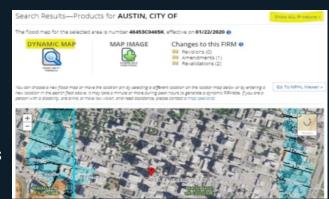
Per Executive Order 11988, floodplain maps issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) must be used when evaluating flood risks and impacts on projects funded by Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Pursuant to 24 CFR 55.2(b)(1), appropriate FEMA data sources are Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) or a Flood Insurance Study (FIS).

Some areas of the country have not yet been mapped by FEMA; however, most areas of Texas, particularly along the coast, have an Effective FIRM. In some instances, there could also be a Preliminary FIRM available, which includes interim flood hazard information based on knowledge from recent floods. For areas which Preliminary FIRMs are available, the Responsible Entity (RE) must consider the Preliminary FIRM as the best available information, unless the Effective FIRM depicts a higher base flood elevation (BFE). When considering flood risks for a project with both an Effective FIRM and Preliminary FIRM, the RE must use the map that designates the higher flood risk (most stringent). A preliminary map cannot be used to demonstrate a lower flood risk. In rare occasions, FEMA releases Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs) instead of preliminary maps. This is generally done following a disaster, and FEMA will take steps to publicize ABFEs when they are released. When working in a region that is recovering from a flood disaster, check to see if regional ABFEs have been released. In areas that have not yet been mapped, or where current maps are inadequately detailed, the RE can use information from the following sources: United States Army Corps of Engineers, community floodplain administrators, United States Geological Survey maps, soil maps from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, state water resource departments, county public works, local flood control or levee districts, and surveys or studies completed by a licensed engineer.

Effective FIRMs can be founding using the FEMA Map Service Center or compare the Effective versus Preliminary FIRM, where data is available side by side using the Flood Map Changes Viewer.

To create a FIRM using the FEMA Map Service Center, enter the address of the project in the search bar. If there is no specific street address associated with the project, you can use the map to navigate to the project area. Use the red pin to ensure you map the correct location.

- Click the "Dynamic Map Print Map/FIRMette" button to save a PDF version of the FIRM.
- ➤ To check for Preliminary map information, click the "Show ALL Products" button. You will find a drop-down list for "Preliminary Products" for the area associated with the search location. If no products are listed, there is no Preliminary information available, and the Effective FIRM will be used to assess the flood risk for the area.



If there are products listed, you will need to view the Map Index to see which panel the project is located on. The Map Index will have IND in the name.

Once you locate the correct panel for your project from the Map Index, download the correct panel from the Preliminary Products list. The Preliminary map may not have the same panel number as the current map.